

Remarks***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 8, 10-13 and 15 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons detailed below, Applicants believe the base claims are now allowable. Applicants have, therefore, elected not to rewrite Claims 8, 10-13 and 15 in independent form at this time.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 13 was rejected under Section 112 on the grounds that "variable n needs to be defined." Claim 13 depends from Claim 11 (through Claim 12). Claim 11 defines "n" as the number of operational attributes in a data set. (Claim 11 recites "storing a data set for a plurality, 'n', of operational attributes....") Applicants believe, therefore, that the Examiner's rejection under Section 112 is not well taken, and should be withdrawn.

Rejections Based On Banker and Fuji

Claims 1-7 and 9 were rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over Banker (6,275,600) in view of Yeoh (Claims 1-5) and in view of Yeoh and Fuji (Claims 6-7 and 9). Claim 14 was rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over Fuji (5,971,582) in view of Yeoh.

The claims have been amended to make it more clear that (1) the monitoring of operating or printing characteristics occurs during printing and (2) print quality refers to image quality. For example, Claim 1 now recites monitoring during printing a plurality of ink-jet printing operating characteristics and storing a plurality of predetermined ink-jet printing operation attributes related to output print image quality.

Banker teaches printing a test page with a laser printer, scanning the printer test page, and then analyzing the scanned image to assess density and other print characteristics. To the extent printing or operational characteristics might somehow be deemed to be "monitored" in Banker, any such monitoring does not occur during printing as required in amended Claims 1, 6 and 9.

Fuji teaches monitoring printing conditions to switch between color and monochrome printing modes to minimize printing time. Fuji does not teach or suggest monitoring print conditions related to image quality, comparing anything related to print quality or substituting a print mode representative of any image quality level, all as required in Claim 14.

The claims are now felt to be in condition for allowance. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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